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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,084

Applicant(s)

IRIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

MARCUS T. RILEY

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01/24/08.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-3, 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/10/2007
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Inventor's Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to applicant's remarks received on January 24, 2008. Claims 4-9 remain pending and newly added claim 11 is also pending. Claims 1-3 & 10 have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims 4-9, and newly added claim 11, filed on January 24, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A: Applicant's Remarks

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,321,266 to Yokomizo ("Yokomizo"); rejected claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,814,512 to Kato ("Kato"); rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokomizo in combination with U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0048473 to Rosen ("Rosen"); and rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokomizo in combination with U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0054344 to Tateyama ("Tateyama").

By this Reply, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3 and 10, without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 4-9, and added a new claim 11. Claims 4-9 and 11 are now pending. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants traverse the rejection of the pending claims.

A. § 102(e) Rejection of Claims 2, 3, and 10

Applicants traverse the § 102(e) rejection of claims 2, 3, and 10. Claims 2, 3 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and therefore the rejection of these claims is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of claims 2, 3, and 10 based on Yokomizo.

B. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 6-9

Applicants traverse the § 102(b) rejection of claims 6-9. Claims 6-9 have been amended and in view of the amendments, Applicants traverse the § 102(b) rejection of these claims for at least the reason that Kato fails to disclose every claim element recited in these claims.

Kato discloses "an image-forming-job managing apparatus" which "includes a communication section which executes communication with at least one second image-forming apparatus connected thereto via a communication line, and a job storage which sequentially stores image-forming jobs issued from a terminal." Kato, Abstract. However, Kato fails to disclose "a control unit obtaining a list of a plurality of feasible image processes performed by the second image processing unit; a search key input unit inputting a search key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes; a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit; and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit," as recited by amended independent claim 6.

As an initial matter, in spite of the Examiner's allegation, Kato fails to disclose "a control unit obtaining a list of a plurality of feasible image processes performed by the second image

processing unit," as recited by amended independent claim 6. The portions, such as Column 6, Lines 21-29, Column 4, Lines 47-55, and Fig. 8 of Kat. ___, go, cited by the Examiner to allege the anticipation of the above-cited feature, merely disclose a system that allows a user to select a server among a plurality of print servers. However, nowhere in _Kato does it disclose the claimed "list of a plurality of feasible image processes performed by the second image processing unit." Indeed, Kato is completely silent about the claimed "image processes."

Furthermore, because Kato does not disclose "a list of a plurality of feasible image processes," it can not disclose "a search key input unit inputting a search key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes," and "a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit," as recited by amended independent claim 6. In addition, Kato also fails to disclose several other features in the above-cited element of amended independent claim 3, including "search key" and "search key input unit." Accordingly, Kato further fails to disclose "a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit," as recited by amended independent claim 6.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Kato fails to disclose every claim element recited in amended independent claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of amended independent claim 6 based on Kato.

Dependent claims 7-9 depend from amended independent claim 6. Thus, dependent claims 7-9 are allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of amended dependent claims 7-9.

C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1, 4, and 5

Applicants traverse the § 103(a) rejection of claim 1 based on Yokomizo in combination with Rosen, and the § 103(a) rejection of claim 4 and 5 based on Yokomizo in combination with Tateyama. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and therefore the rejection of these claims is now moot. Applicants have amended dependent claim 4 into an independent claim, and amended dependent claim 5. In view of the amendments, Applicants traverse the § 103(a) rejection of these claims for at least the reason that Yokomizo, taken alone or in combination with Yateyama, fails to teach or suggest every claim element recited in this claim.

For example, in spite of the Examiner's allegation, Yokomizo, taken alone or in combination with Yateyama, does not teach or suggest at least "an image processing unit obtaining a sample image by performing the image process designated from the operation input unit for an original image received from the image printing apparatus," and "a display control unit displaying an designation picture for the image process on the display unit on the basis of the information from the image printing apparatus, wherein the display control unit displays the sample image on the display unit of the image printing apparatus on the basis of the information transmitted by the transmission unit," as recited by amended independent claim 4.

Yokomizo is completely silent about "a sample image" and "the image process designated from the operation input unit." The Examiner also contended that Yokomizo "does not expressly disclose a sample image obtained by causing said operation unit to perform an image process

designated by the user for an original image." Office Action at 13. However, the Examiner asserted that Yateyama taught or suggested the above- cited features. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner cited Page 11, Para. 244 of Yateyama and asserted that the cited portion taught the claimed "sample image". However, the portion cited by the Examiner only discloses calculating the actual processing time required for converting the sample image data. Other portions of Yateyama teach several steps of "data conversion processing," for example, including a "JPEG decompression processing," an "image correction processing," a "color processing," a "UCR (Under Color Removal) processing," and a "half-toning processing," Yateyama, Page 10, Para. 232 - Page 11, Para. 239. However, nowhere in Yateyama does it teach or suggest "the sample image" is obtained "by performing the image process designated from the operation input unit for an original image received from the image printing apparatus," as recited in independent claim 4. For at least reasons set forth above, Yateyama fails to cure the deficiencies of Yokomizo.

Therefore, Yokomizo, taken alone or in combination with Yateyama, does not teach or suggest at least "an image processing unit obtaining a sample image by performing the image process designated from the operation input unit for an original image received from the image printing apparatus."

Furthermore, because Yokomizo fails to teach or suggest "the sample image," it can not teach or suggest "the display control unit displays the sample image on the display unit of the image printing apparatus on the basis of the information transmitted by the transmission unit," as recited by amended independent claim 4. In addition, Yateyama does not disclose the recited

limitations of "the sample image," or the claimed "display unit of the image printing apparatus," and thus it can not teach or suggest the above-cited features of amended independent claim 4. For this additional reason, Yokomizo, taken alone or in combination with Yateyama, does not teach or suggest every element of amended independent claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of amended independent claim 4 based on Yateyama.

Dependent claim 5 depends from amended independent claim 4. Thus, dependent claim 5 is allowable by virtue of its dependence from an allowable independent claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of amended dependent claim 5.

D. New Claim 11

Applicants have added new independent claim 11, support of which can be found at Fig. 1-12 and their related descriptions in the specification. New independent claim 11, while of different scope as compared to independent claim 6, includes a recitation of "a search key input unit inputting a search key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes," "a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit; and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit," and "a display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit on an operation screen on the basis of the retrieved result that is returned," similar to those of independent claim 6. For at least the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 6, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new independent claim 11.

A: Examiner's Response

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. As a result, the previous claim rejection under 35 USC §102 is withdrawn in light of the applicant's amendments. However, claim 4 & 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokomizo et al. (US 6,321,266 hereinafter, Yokomizo '266) in combination with Tateyama (US 2002/0054344 A1 hereinafter, Tateyama '344). **Claim 6 & newly added claim11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokomizo '266 in combination with Kato (US 6,814,512 B2 hereinafter, Kato '512). **Claims 7-9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokomizo '266 and Kato '512, and further in view of Kato '512. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Kato does not fail to disclose "a control unit obtaining a list of a plurality of feasible image processes performed by the second image processing unit; a search key input unit inputting a search key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes; a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit; and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit," as recited by amended independent claim 6.

Regarding claim 6; Kato '512 discloses a search key input unit inputting a search key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes ("When

changing the output destination of a document, which is designated, for example, as the printer 4-1, the user at first operates the input device 35 to request the machine information of another printer 4-2-4-m. At this time, in the client terminal 3-1, the main control section 31 creates a server search command for the printer server 2-1, and outputs it to the communication section 33. The communication section 33 transmits the server search command to the printer server 2-1 via the LAN 1." column 6, lines 21-29); a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit ("As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination." column 5, lines 61-67); and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit ("As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination." column 5, lines 61-67).

Accordingly, Yokomizo in combination with Kato discloses every claimed element recited in amended independent claim 6. As a result of Yokomizo taken alone or in combination with Kato amended independent claim 6 is not allowable.

Dependent claims 7-9 depend from amended independent claim 6. Thus, dependent claims 7-9 are not allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, since Yokomizo in combination with Tateyama teach, disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 6, claims 7-9 is obvious over Yokomizo in combination with Kato.

Yokomizo taken alone or in combination with Tateyama, does teach or suggest at least "an image processing unit obtaining a sample image by performing the image process designated from the operation input unit for an original image received from the image printing apparatus," and "a display control unit displaying an designation picture for the image process on the display unit on the basis of the information from the image printing apparatus, wherein the display control unit displays the sample image on the display unit of the image printing apparatus on the basis of the information transmitted by the transmission unit," as recited by amended independent claim 4.

Regarding claim 4; Yokomizo '266 discloses an image printing system, comprises: an image printing apparatus which forms an image on a paper sheet on the basis of image data to an information processing apparatus which performs an image process for the image data ("*...the device driver 86 performs the following process so as to print out one page of compressed image stored in the compressing memory 615.*" column 41, lines 37-40); wherein the image printing apparatus includes: a display unit displaying information for a user ("*An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a keyboard. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected.*" column 17, lines 6-12); a display control unit displaying a designation picture for the image process on the display unit on the basis of the information from the image printing

apparatus (*"First, image data is received from the network server SPI. Second, the image data is displayed and stored according to a scanner application program."* column 34, lines 56-58). See also (*"An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a keyboard."* column 17, lines 6-9); and an operation input unit receiving the designation for the image process from the user (*"An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a keyboard. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected."* column 17, lines 6-12); and an information processing apparatus connected to the image printing apparatus through a network, wherein the information processing apparatus includes (*"The network system in the embodiment is so constructed that a small number of scanners or printers connected thereto through the network can be commonly utilized..."* column 11, lines 31-32): an image processing unit obtaining a sample image by performing the image process designated from the operation input unit for an original image received from the image printing apparatus (*"The compressed video image data transferred through the network is expanded by the ADCT compression/expansion circuit 115 into color intermediate tone data and stored in the band memory 103. Then, they are transferred to a printer interface I/F to be printed by a printer device. An FIFO memory 116 is used for transmitting or receiving compressed video image data to/from the ADCT compression/expansion circuit 115. The FIFO memory 116 is used for absorbing a data transfer timing gap due to data volume difference between compressed data*

and expanded data (real video image data) in compression and expansion operations. An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a key board. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected. " column 16, lines 61-67 thru column 17, lines 1-12); and a transmission unit transmitting information including the sample image to the image printing apparatus through the network ("Then the CPU 401 transmits a scan start command to the scanner 95A. Image data entered from the reader part of the scanner 95A is entered into image processing circuits 404, 405 and 406 through the interface 423. Here image processing is carried out..." column 29, lines 66-67 thru column 30, lines 1-4). See also ("Then, image data as much as one band is transferred from the board circuit to the memory 408 through the VME bus. At this time, image data from the VME bus is stored in the RGBX data format by 32-bit accessing. R, G and B are respectively image data for color components of red, green and blue, and X is control data including information of block characters. Next, a command for printing operation is transferred through the dual-port RAM 403. The CPU 401 transmits a start command for printing operation." column 29, lines 21-30); the display control unit displays the sample image on the display unit of the image printing apparatus on the basis of the information transmitted by the transmission unit ("The compressed video image data transferred through the network is expanded by the ADCT compression/expansion circuit 115 into color intermediate tone data and stored in the band memory 103. Then, they are transferred to a printer interface I/F to be printed by a printer device. An FIFO memory 116 is used for transmitting or receiving

compressed video image data to/from the ADCT compression/expansion circuit 115. The FIFO memory 116 is used for absorbing a data transfer timing gap due to data volume difference between compressed data and expanded data (real video image data) in compression and expansion operations. An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a key board. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected. " column 16, lines 61-67 thru column 17, lines 1-12); wherein said operation unit control means includes sample display means for displaying, on said operation unit, (*"An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a keyboard. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected."* column 17, lines 6-12).

As a result of Yokomizo taken alone or in combination with Tateyama, amended independent claim 4 is not allowable.

Tateyama does teach or suggest "the sample image" is obtained" by performing the image process designated from the operation input unit for an original image received from the image printing apparatus," Tateyama '344 discloses a sample image obtained by causing said operation unit to perform an image process designated by the user for an original image (*"Here time actually required for converting the sample image data is calculated by using data processing*

time as shown in FIG. 30 for each processing pattern each device.” page 11, paragraph 244).

Thus, Tateyama does not fail to cure the deficiencies of Yokomizo.

Therefore, Yokomizo, taken alone or in combination with Tateyama, does teach or suggest every element of amended independent claim 4. As a result, independent claim 4 is not allowable.

Dependent claim 5 depends from amended independent claim 4. Thus, dependent claim 5 is not allowable by virtue of its dependence from an unallowable independent claim. Accordingly, since Yokomizo ‘266 in combination with Tateyama ‘344 teach, disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 4, claim 5 is obvious over Yokomizo ‘266 in combination with Tateyama ‘344.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

(The previous claim rejections are withdrawn in light of the applicant’s amendments.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claim 4 & 5** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokomizo '266 in combination with Tateyama '344.

Regarding claim 4; Yokomizo '266 discloses an image printing system, comprises: an image printing apparatus which forms an image on a paper sheet on the basis of image data to an information processing apparatus which performs an image process for the image data ("*...the device driver 86 performs the following process so as to print out one page of compressed image stored in the compressing memory 615.*" column 41, lines 37-40); wherein the image printing apparatus includes: a display unit displaying information for a user ("*An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a keyboard. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected.*" column 17, lines 6-12); a display control unit displaying a designation picture for the image process on the display unit on the basis of the information from the image printing apparatus ("*First, image data is received from the network server SP1. Second, the image data is displayed and stored according to a scanner application program.*" column 34, lines 56-58). See also ("*An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a keyboard.*" column 17, lines 6-9); and an operation input unit receiving the designation for the image process from the user ("*An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display*

or to input data from a keyboard. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected." column 17, lines 6-12); and an information processing apparatus connected to the image printing apparatus through a network, wherein the information processing apparatus includes ("The network system in the embodiment is so constructed that a small number of scanners or printers connected thereto through the network can be commonly utilized..."column 11, lines 31-32): an image processing unit obtaining a sample image by performing the image process designated from the operation input unit for an original image received from the image printing apparatus ("The compressed video image data transferred through the network is expanded by the ADCT compression/expansion circuit 115 into color intermediate tone data and stored in the band memory 103. Then, they are transferred to a printer interface I/F to be printed by a printer device. An FIFO memory 116 is used for transmitting or receiving compressed video image data to/from the ADCT compression/expansion circuit 115. The FIFO memory 116 is used for absorbing a data transfer timing gap due to data volume difference between compressed data and expanded data (real video image data) in compression and expansion operations. An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a key board. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected. " column 16, lines 61-67 thru column 17, lines 1-12); and a transmission unit transmitting information including the sample image to the image printing apparatus through the network ("Then the CPU 401 transmits a scan start command to the

scanner 95A. Image data entered from the reader part of the scanner 95A is entered into image processing circuits 404, 405 and 406 through the interface 423. Here image processing is carried out..." column 29, lines 66-67 thru column 30, lines 1-4). See also ("Then, image data as much as one band is transferred from the board circuit to the memory 408 through the VME bus. At this time, image data from the VME bus is stored in the RGBX data format by 32-bit accessing. R, G and B are respectively image data for color components of red, green and blue, and X is control data including information of block characters. Next, a command for printing operation is transferred through the dual-port RAM 403. The CPU 401 transmits a start command for printing operation." column 29, lines 21-30); the display control unit displays the sample image on the display unit of the image printing apparatus on the basis of the information transmitted by the transmission unit ("The compressed video image data transferred through the network is expanded by the ADCT compression/expansion circuit 115 into color intermediate tone data and stored in the band memory 103. Then, they are transferred to a printer interface I/F to be printed by a printer device. An FIFO memory 116 is used for transmitting or receiving compressed video image data to/from the ADCT compression/expansion circuit 115. The FIFO memory 116 is used for absorbing a data transfer timing gap due to data volume difference between compressed data and expanded data (real video image data) in compression and expansion operations. An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a key board. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected. " column 16, lines 61-67 thru column

17, lines 1-12); wherein said operation unit control means includes sample display means for displaying, on said operation unit, (*"An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a keyboard. Another port is used for connecting with a device having a serial interface, to which a character printer, like a laser beam printer, or a simple type scanner can be connected."* column 17, lines 6-12).

Yokomizo '266 does not expressly disclose a sample image obtained by causing said operation unit to perform an image process designated by the user for an original image

Tateyama '344 discloses a sample image obtained by causing said operation unit to perform an image process designated by the user for an original image (*"Here time actually required for converting the sample image data is calculated by using data processing time as shown in FIG. 30 for each processing pattern each device."* page 11, paragraph 0244).

Yokomizo '266 and Tateyama '344 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of image process systems (*"The present invention relates to an image processing system..."* Tateyama '344 at Page 1, Paragraph 0001).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image process system as taught by Yokomizo '266 by adding a sample image obtained by causing said operation unit to perform an image process designated by the user for an original image as taught by Tateyama '344.

The motivation for doing so would have been to provide an image processing system for determining an optimum device to execute predetermined image processing and a processing route (*"...to provide an image processing system, a control method and an image processing*

apparatus in a system having plural devices connected via a serial bus for determining an optimum device to execute predetermined image processing and a processing route.” Tateyama ‘344 at Page 1, Paragraph 0010).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yokomizo ‘266 with Tateyama ‘344 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 4.

Regarding claim 5; Yokomizo ‘266 discloses wherein the display control unit further includes a sample display selection means for allowing the user to select whether or not to cause the sample display means to display a sample (“*An RS232C controller 117 controls a standard serial interface I/F. An RS232C port having two ports, A channel 118a and B channel 118b, has one port used for connecting terminal devices to display or to input data from a key board.*” column 17, lines 6-9).

5. **Claim 6 & 11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokomizo ‘266 in combination with Kato ‘512.

Regarding claim 6; Yokomizo ‘266 discloses an image printing system comprises: an image printing apparatus, including: an image reading unit obtaining image data by reading an image from a document (“*Then the CPU 401 transmits a scan start command to the scanner 95A. Image data entered from the reader part of the scanner 95A is entered into image processing circuits 404, 405 and 406 through the interface 423. Here image processing is carried out...*” column 29, lines 66-67 thru column 30, lines 1-4); an image forming unit forming the image on a paper sheet on the basis of the image data (“*...the device driver 86 performs the following process so as to print out one page of compressed image stored in the compressing*

memory 615.” column 41, lines 37-40); and a first image processing unit performing an image process for the image data (“...the device driver 86 performs the following process so as to print out one page of compressed image stored in the compressing memory 615.” column 41, lines 37-40); wherein the image printing apparatus further includes: a control unit obtaining a list of a plurality of feasible image processes performed by the second image processing unit (“In case of the second processing, the data in the band memory 103 is delivered to the ADCT compression circuit 115 so as to be compressed and the compressed data is written in the FIFO memory 116. Whenever the data is read out from the FIFO memory 116, it is transferred to the host computer and the next band data is processed repeatedly to obtain a compressed video image data. In case of using a hard disk, almost the same procedure, except temporarily storing the data in the hard disk, will be conducted.” column 19, lines 12-20).

Yokomizo ‘266 does not expressly disclose a search key input unit inputting a search key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes; a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit; and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit.

Kato ‘512 discloses a search key input unit inputting a search key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes (“When changing the output destination of a document, which is designated, for example, as the printer 4-1, the user at first operates the input device 35 to request the machine information of another printer 4-2-4-m. At this time, in the client terminal 3-1, the main control section 31 creates a server search command for the printer server 2-1, and outputs it to the communication section 33. The communication

section 33 transmits the server search command to the printer server 2-1 via the LAN 1.” column 6, lines 21-29); a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit (“As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination.” column 5, lines 61-67); and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit (“As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination.” column 5, lines 61-67).

Yokomizo ‘266 and Kato ‘512 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of image forming systems (“*The present invention relates to an image-forming job managing apparatus for managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus.*” Kato ‘512 at column 1, lines 6-9).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image forming system as taught by Yokomizo ‘266 by adding a search key input unit inputting a search key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes; a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit;

and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit as taught by Kato '512.

The motivation for doing so would have been because it is advantageous to provide an image-forming job managing apparatus for managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus, which can transfer, by a simple procedure, an image-forming job to another image-forming job managing apparatus on a network (*"...there is a need for providing an image-forming job managing apparatus for managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus, which can transfer, by a simple procedure, an image-forming job to another image-forming job managing apparatus on a network."* Kato '512 at column 1, lines 58-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yokomizo '266 with Kato '512 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

Regarding claim 11; Yokomizo '266 discloses an image printing system, comprises: an image printing apparatus, including (*"...the device driver 86 performs the following process so as to print out one page of compressed image stored in the compressing memory 615."* column 41, lines 37-40): an image reading unit obtaining image data by reading an image from a document (*"Then the CPU 401 transmits a scan start command to the scanner 95A. Image data entered from the reader part of the scanner 95A is entered into image processing circuits 404, 405 and 406 through the interface 423. Here image processing is carried out..."* column 29, lines 66-67 thru column 30, lines 1-4); an image forming unit forming the image on a paper sheet on the basis of the image data (*"...the device driver 86 performs the following process so as to*

print out one page of compressed image stored in the compressing memory 615.” column 41, lines 37-40); and a first image processing unit performing an image process for the image data (“...the device driver 86 performs the following process so as to print out one page of compressed image stored in the compressing memory 615.” column 41, lines 37-40); and an information processing apparatus connected to the image printing apparatus through a network (“The network system in the embodiment is so constructed that a small number of scanners or printers connected thereto through the network can be commonly utilized...”column 11, lines 31-32).

Yokomizo ‘266 does not expressly disclose wherein the information processing apparatus includes a second image processing unit performing an image process for the image data; wherein the image printing apparatus further includes: a search key input unit inputting a retrieval key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes; a transmission unit transmitting the input search key to the information processing apparatus; wherein the information processing apparatus further includes: a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit; and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit; wherein the image printing apparatus further includes: a display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit on an operation screen on the basis of the retrieved result that is returned.

Kato ‘512 discloses wherein the information processing apparatus includes a second image processing unit performing an image process for the image data (“When changing the

output destination of a document, which is designated, for example, as the printer 4-1, the user at first operates the input device 35 to request the machine information of another printer 4-2-4-m. At this time, in the client terminal 3-1, the main control section 31 creates a server search command for the printer server 2-1, and outputs it to the communication section 33. The communication section 33 transmits the server search command to the printer server 2-1 via the LAN 1." column 6, lines 21-29); wherein the image printing apparatus further includes: a search key input unit inputting a retrieval key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes (*"When changing the output destination of a document, which is designated, for example, as the printer 4-1, the user at first operates the input device 35 to request the machine information of another printer 4-2-4-m. At this time, in the client terminal 3-1, the main control section 31 creates a server search command for the printer server 2-1, and outputs it to the communication section 33. The communication section 33 transmits the server search command to the printer server 2-1 via the LAN 1."* column 6, lines 21-29); and a transmission unit transmitting the input search key to the information processing apparatus (*"When changing the output destination of a document, which is designated, for example, as the printer 4-1, the user at first operates the input device 35 to request the machine information of another printer 4-2-4-m. At this time, in the client terminal 3-1, the main control section 31 creates a server search command for the printer server 2-1, and outputs it to the communication section 33. The communication section 33 transmits the server search command to the printer server 2-1 via the LAN 1."* column 6, lines 21-29); wherein the information processing apparatus further includes: a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit (*"As a result,*

a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination.” column 5, lines 61-67); and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit (“*As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination.” column 5, lines 61-67);* wherein the image printing apparatus further includes: a display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit on an operation screen on the basis of the retrieved result that is returned (“*As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination.” column 5, lines 61-67);* See also (“*As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination.” column 5, lines 61-67).*

Yokomizo '266 and Kato '512 are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of image forming systems (*"The present invention relates to an image-forming job managing apparatus for managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus."* Kato '512 at column 1, lines 6-9).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image forming system as taught by Yokomizo '266 by adding wherein the information processing apparatus includes a second image processing unit performing an image process for the image data; wherein the image printing apparatus further includes: a search key input unit inputting a retrieval key for a user to retrieve a desirable image process among the plurality of image processes; a transmission unit transmitting the input search key to the information processing apparatus; wherein the information processing apparatus further includes: a search unit retrieving at least one image process from the list of the plurality of feasible image processes using the search key input by the search key input unit; and a search result display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit; wherein the image printing apparatus further includes: a display unit displaying information related to the image process retrieved by the search unit on an operation screen on the basis of the retrieved result that is returned as taught by Kato '512.

The motivation for doing so would have been because it is advantageous to provide there is a need for providing an image-forming job managing apparatus for managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus, which can transfer, by a simple procedure, an image-forming job to another image-forming job managing apparatus on a network (*"...there is a need for providing an image-forming job managing apparatus for*

managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus, which can transfer, by a simple procedure, an image-forming job to another image-forming job managing apparatus on a network.” Kato ‘512 at column 1, lines 58-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yokomizo ‘266 with Kato ‘512 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

6. **Claims 7-9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokomizo ‘266 and Kato ‘512 as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Kato ‘512.

Regarding claim 7; Yokomizo ‘266 and Kato ‘512 as modified does not expressly disclose a search result storage unit for storing a retrieval result obtained by said search unit.

Kato ‘512 discloses a search result storage unit for storing a retrieval result obtained by said search unit (“...*information contained in the image-forming jobs that are stored in the job storage, upon receiving a request for displaying the image-forming jobs;*” column 2, lines 9-11). See also (“*The server search section 61 searches for machine information stored in other printer servers on the LAN 1. The job managing section 62 registers an image-forming job in the job storage 52, or reads image-forming-job information from the job storage 52. The job change section 63 changes image-forming-job information stored in the job storage 52.*” column 4, lines 21-26).

Yokomizo ‘266 and Kato ‘512 are combinable with Kato ‘512 because they are from same field of endeavor of image forming systems (“*The present invention relates to an image-forming job managing apparatus for managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus.*” Kato ‘512 at column 1, lines 6-9).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image forming system as taught by Yokomizo '266 and Kato '512 by adding a search result storage unit for storing a retrieval result obtained by said search unit as taught by Kato '512.

The motivation for doing so would have been because it is advantageous to provide an image-forming job managing apparatus for managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus, which can transfer, by a simple procedure, an image-forming job to another image-forming job managing apparatus on a network ("*...there is a need for providing an image-forming job managing apparatus for managing an image-forming job issued from at least one terminal to an image-forming apparatus, which can transfer, by a simple procedure, an image-forming job to another image-forming job managing apparatus on a network.*" Kato '512 at column 1, lines 58-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yokomizo '266 and Kato '512 with Kato '512 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

Regarding claim 8; Kato '512 discloses wherein the search unit outputs a coincidence degree for each search target which numerically expresses a correspondence between a search target and the search key ("*If the main control section 51 determines, at a step ST4 in FIG. 6, that the command is a command to search for a server, it executes a server search process shown in detail in FIG. 8. Specifically, the main control section 51 instructs the server search section 61 to search for another printer server. After acquiring the machine information of another printer server from the server search section 61, the main control section 51 outputs the acquired machine information to the machine information output section 59.*" column 4, lines

47-55); the search unit result display unit changes a display layout of an operation window on the basis of the coincidence degree output from the search unit (*"As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination."* column 5, lines 61-67).

Regarding claim 9; Kato '512 discloses The image printing system of claim 7, wherein the search unit outputs a coincidence degree for each search target which numerically expresses a correspondence between a search target and the search key (*"If the main control section 51 determines, at a step ST4 in FIG. 6, that the command is a command to search for a server, it executes a server search process shown in detail in FIG. 8. Specifically, the main control section 51 instructs the server search section 61 to search for another printer server. After acquiring the machine information of another printer server from the server search section 61, the main control section 51 outputs the acquired machine information to the machine information output section 59."* column 4, lines 47-55); and the search result display unit changes a display layout of an operation window on the basis of the coincidence degree output from the search unit (*"As a result, a list of all image-forming jobs registered in a queue in the printer server 2-1 is displayed on the display 36 of the client terminal 3-1. In this state, the user of the client terminal 3-1 can change, for example, the number of copies of a document, whose printing was instructed before. Further, the user can change the printer designated as the output destination."* column 5, lines 61-67).

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARCUS T. RILEY whose telephone number is (571)270-1581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30-5:00, est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler L. Haskins can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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